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George Herring

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Deb Moore

What are the effects on children living in a single-parent household?

Over the last couple of years, the rate of children living in a single-parent household has greatly increased and continues to rise. When a child is raised in a two-parent household, the child can grow up with a better financial and educational life. And as we look at the single-parent households we see that it can have an effect on the child’s life in many areas, from social habits to academic achievements.

When we look at single-parent house today, most of them are run by the mother. And in most of the cases the absence of the father has made it harder on the mother because of the lower income; which in turn can affect the way the child is doing in school. With the lack of money, most single-parent mother’s end up working more, which then can affect the child because the child is getting as much attention and not enough help at home on their homework. I also read in article “*The Effects of a Single Parent Home on a Child's Behavior*” that for every $100 of child support that a mother receives their children’s standardized test scores increase by 1/8 to 7/10 of a point.(Kunz 1). And in most cases a child then who has contact with their father tend to do better in school then the children that don’t have any contact.

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Also in the same article Kunz states, 6 out of every 8 children living with their mother in a single-parent household, is living near or below the poverty line. (Kunz 1). When anyone is living in poverty, it can have a big effect on you. And just think of the effects it would have on you as a child. Usually when you see those children that are living in poverty they tend to have low self-esteem and increase in anger, which leads to violent behaviors. Not only does it have a financial effect on the child, but some other emotional effects of living in a single-parent household include feeling of abandonment, sadness, and difficultly connecting with others. Every child is different; however the style of parenting can also have a big effect on the development of the child.

The reason why I am writing about this topic is because it’s something that hits home for me. My sister and I grew up in a single-parent household and so I can see the effects it’s had on me and my sister. Now I believe my mom tried her very best to be there for us as much as she could, but someone has to work to put food on the table. There were many nights that I would not only take care of myself but also my sister, because my mom was out at a bank function. And eventually it got to the point where I was not getting enough sleep because I would cook, then help my sister with her homework, get her to bed, then finally I would be able to start on my homework. So there were plenty of late nights for me.

Most of the people that would be interest in my topic would be single-parents that are raising children. I say that because like where growing up with just my mom, sister, and me; hits home for me. I believe it would also hit home for those parents. And they would be able to look

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at the things that I have talked about like how living in a single-parent household can affect a child in school and also the ways it can affect a child emotionally.

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Works Cited

Kunz, Marnie. "The Effects Of A Single Parent Home On A Child's Behavior | LIVESTRONG.COM." LIVESTRONG.COM - Lose Weight & Get Fit with Diet, Nutrition & Fitness Tools | LIVESTRONG.COM. Demand Media, Inc., 23 Mar. 2010. Web. 13 Nov. 2012.